

## CLAIMS

- 1        1. A method for sharing a device in a computer system between operating system uses and  
2        non-operating system uses, comprising:
  - 3            generating a false remove signal in regard to a device;
  - 4            placing said device in a sleep state;
  - 5            using said device for non-operating system uses;
  - 6            awakening said device from sleep and returning it to the operating system.
  
- 1        2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the false remove signal is generated in  
2        response to a request to divert the device.
  
- 1        3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the operating system consults tables upon  
2        receipt of the remove signal to determine the meaning of the signal and the device involved.
  
- 1        4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the device is used to perform a BIOS update.
  
- 1        5. The method according to claim 1, wherein data present in the device is stored in memory  
2        when the device is put in a sleep state and returned to the device when it is awakened.
  
- 1        6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said awakening is in response to a second  
2        false signal.
  
- 1        7. The method according to claim 1, wherein said device is a processor.

1       8. An apparatus for sharing a device between operating system uses and non-operating

2       system uses, comprising:

3       a plurality of devices;

4       a controller connected to said devices through a bus;

5       a memory connected to said controller;

6       means to request access to a device for non-operating system uses;

7       said controller generating a false remove event in response to a request to divert the device,

8       putting the device to sleep and granting control of the device to non-operating system uses for a

9       limited time and awakening the device after the non-operating system use is completed.

1       9. The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising a peripheral component interface

2       bus connected to said controller, to which other peripheral components can be connected.

1       10. The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising means for generating a BIOS

2       update.

1       11. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the means for generating is a flash

2       update.

1       12. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said device is a processor.

1       13. A method of operating a server, comprising:

2       providing a plurality of devices, a controller connected to said devices and a memory

3       connected to said controller;

4 using said devices to perform operating system tasks;  
5 generating a false remove signal concerning at least one of said plurality of devices;  
6 placing said device in a sleep state;  
7 using said device for a non-operating system use for a limited time;  
8 awakening said device after said non-operating system use ends.

1 14. The method according to claim 13, wherein said non-operating system use is a BIOS  
2 update.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein the update is a flash update.

16. The method according to claim 13, wherein said remove signal is generated in response  
2 to a request to divert a device.

17. The method according to claim 13, wherein said awakening is in response to a second  
2 false signal.

18. The method according to claim 13, wherein said device is a processor.